## **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

# **Application Ranking Summary**

# **Forestry**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Forestry		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

### **National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality - Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2. a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer implement conservation practices which:	
3. a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	Yes O or No O
3. b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	Yes O or No O
3. c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
Clean Air: Treatment of air quality from agricultural sources - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
4. a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?	Yes O or No O
4. c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health: Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	Yes O or No O
Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practice(s) which:	
6. a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	Yes O or No O
6. b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	Yes O or No O
High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project assist the producer implement practices which:	

7. a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	Yes O or No O
7. c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	Yes O or No O
7. d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	Yes O or No O
7. f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation - Will the proposed project assist the producer to implement practices which:	
8. a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP (122,124)?	Yes O or No O
8. c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines - Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
9. a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?	Yes O or No O
9. b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?	Yes O or No O
9. c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	Yes O or No O

### **State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will this treatment address a critical water quality resource concern on property located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog watershed?	Yes O or No O
2. Is the parcel protected or directly adjacent to other protected (easement) or public lands?	Yes O or No O
3. ANSWER YES TO 3 OR 4 BUT NOT BOTH. Does this application include at least one practice that will reduce soil erosion and result in an improvement in water quality of streams, water bodies, or wetlands?	Yes O or No O
4. Does this application include at least one practice that will reduce only soil erosion on forest land?	Yes O or No O
5. Does this application include practices to address invasive species where successful control or containment is feasible?	Yes O or No O
6. FOR QUESTION 6, 7, 8. ONLY ANSWER YES TO ONE OF THE QUESTIONS. Does this application include Forest Stand Improvement practices on forest lands considered to be "higher forest productivity?"	Yes O or No O
7. Does this application include Forest Stand Improvement practices on forest lands considered to be "lower forest productivity?"	Yes O or No O
8. Does this application include Forest Stand Improvement practice on forest lands that are not found on Forest_Prod_a_vt.lyr	Yes O or No O
9. Does this application include Forest Stand Improvement practices, focusing on the pole size class, located in Franklin, Lamoille, Orleans or Essex County?	Yes O or No O

#### **Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	
Bennington Local Working Group	
1. Does this application include practices to control invasive species?	
2. Does this application reduce erosion resource concerns through the implementation of stream crossing and/or forest trails and landings practices?	
3. Will forest stand improvement be implemented with this application to improve the diversity, structure, and health of forested lands?	
4. Does the application include critical area planting to address soil erosion concerns?	
5. Is the application part of a larger plan that is using multiple funding sources/partners in order to achieve conservation as a partnership effort?	Yes O or No O

Franklin and Grand Isle Local Working Group	
6. Does this application prevent or control invasive species?	Yes O or No O
7. Does this practice reduce or prevent sediment from entering into a waterway?	Yes O or No O
8. Does this application promote forest health and productivity by removing damaged or diseased trees?	Yes O or No O
9. Does this application restore sensitive areas by relocating poorly sited roads?	
10. Does this application improve water quality through forest road repair?	
Poultney Mettawee Local Working Group	
11. Are practices included in this application that would improve tree species diversity and/or vertical stratification for improved forest health?	Yes O or No O
12. Will this application include invasive plant control?	Yes O or No O
13. Will this application include practices that also benefit water quality?	Yes O or No O
14. Will this application address soil erosion within 50' of a river corridor as delineated in a river corridor plan or within 100' of a blue line stream if there is no river corridor plan for the planned area?	Yes O or No O
15. Will additional strategies be implemented to prevent establishment or reestablishment of invasive species, as identified in participant's forest management plan?	Yes O or No O
Rutland Local Working Group	
16. Are practices included in this application that would improve tree species diversity and/or vertical stratification for improved forest health?	Yes O or No O
17. Will this application include invasive plant control?	Yes O or No O
18. Will this application address soil erosion through the installation of stream crossing, forest trails and landings and or grade stabilization structure?	Yes O or No O
19. Are the contracted practices part of a larger plan that utilizes multiple funding sources (like district or state) to address resource concerns?	Yes O or No O
20. Will additional strategies be implemented to prevent establishment or reestablishment of invasive species, as identified in participant's forest management plan?	Yes O or No O
Ottauquechee Local Working Group	
21. Will this application address a critical water quality resource concern on property located within the Connecticut River Watershed?	Yes O or No O
22. Will the application include critical area planting and/or forest trails and landings in order to address soil erosion concerns?	Yes O or No O
23. Does this application address invasive species identified in the participant's forest management plan, and does the plan also include practices to promote native species regeneration?	Yes O or No O
24. Are practices included in this application that would improve the diversity and/or health of natural communities?	Yes O or No O
25. Does this application include practices for improved species diversity and improved vertical stratification within the forest?	Yes O or No O
Windham Local Working Group	
26. Will this application include practices that will help reduce sediment loading into surface waters that feed into the Connecticut River?	Yes O or No O
27. Will this application address soil erosion through the installation of stream crossings and/or forest trails and landings?	Yes O or No O
28. Will this application include practices that will address invasive species ?	Yes O or No O
29. Will strategies be implemented to prevent establishment or reestablishment of invasive species, as identified in participant's forest management plan?	Yes O or No O
30. Will forest stand improvement be implemented with this application to improve the diversity, structure, and health of forested lands?	Yes O or No O
Caledonia Local Working Group	
31. Does the application address erosion control that would reduce sedimentation to waterways?	Yes O or No O
32. Does the application address invasive control?	Yes O or No O

33. Does the application address barriers to quality forestry, including (but not limited to) invasive species?	Yes O or No O
34. Does this application solve multiple resource concerns?	Yes O or No O
35. Does the property fall within a high priority SAP (spatial analysis project)?	Yes O or No O
Lamoille Local Working Group	
36. Does this application prevent or control invasive species?	Yes O or No O
37. Does this application reduce or prevent sediment into surface water?	Yes O or No O
38. Does this application maintain roads and trails that follow Best Management Practices?	Yes O or No O
39. Does this application include practices that maintain habitat connectivity?	Yes O or No O
40. Does this application include bird habitat that is shown on the Vermont Forest Birds Priority Map?	Yes O or No O
Orleans Local Working Group	
41. Does this application address erosion control for slopes over 10%?	Yes O or No O
42. Does this application protect streams from erosion and runoff from forestry equipment travel?	Yes O or No O
43. Does this application include tree establishment after the cut?	Yes O or No O
44. Does this application address invasive species control?	Yes O or No O
45. Does this application included forest stand improvement that will enhance wildlife habitat?	Yes O or No O
White River Local Working Group	
46. Will this application include practices to control terrestrial invasive species and management plans?	Yes O or No O
47. Will this application address erosion control practices on stream crossings on logging operations?	Yes O or No O
48. Will this application provide increased wildlife cover through forest stand improvement?	Yes O or No O
49. Will this application included practices to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion on existing forest roads and trails?	Yes O or No O
50. Will this application include practices that both follow the Forest management plan and provide wildlife habitat benefits?	Yes O or No O
Otter Creek Local Working Group	
51. Will this EQIP application address the enhancement of managed forest stand health and productivity?	Yes O or No O
52. Will this EQIP application manage invasive species?	Yes O or No O
53. Will this EQIP application improve water quality by addressing soil erosion from forest trails, access roads and landings?	Yes O or No O
54. Will this EQIP application result in enhanced aquatic and wetlands habitat?	Yes O or No O
55. Will this EQIP application address, where needed, streambank erosion?	Yes O or No O
Winooski Local Working Group	
56. Will this application lead to improved forest health and diversity?	Yes O or No O
57. Does this project include the control or eradication of invasive species?	Yes O or No O
58. Will this application increase habitat continuity and/or is the project area within 1 mile of any core protected areas or conserved lands?	Yes O or No O
59. Does the project involve upgrades to or maintenance of forest trails, landings, and/or access roads?	Yes O or No O
60. Will this application maintain or make improvements to forest riparian buffers?	Yes O or No O
Essex Local Working Group	
61. Does the application address erosion control that would reduce sedimentation to waterways?	Yes O or No O
62. Does the application address invasive control?	Yes O or No O
63. Does the application address barriers to quality forestry, including (but not limited to) invasive species?	Yes O or No O
64. Does this application solve multiple resource concerns.	Yes O or No O
65. Does the property fall within a high priority SAP (spatial analysis project)?	Yes O or No O

#### Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
Ranking Score	
Efficiency:	
Local Issues:	
State Issues:	
National Issues:	
Final Ranking Score:	
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Notes:

•	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:
Signature Date:	Signature Date: